

Northern Altai language

Northern Altai or **Northern Altay** is one of two Turkic languages spoken in the Altay Krai of Russia on the border of Kazakhstan. Though traditionally considered one language, Southern Altai is not fully mutually intelligible with the Northern varieties. Written Altai is based on Southern Altai, and is rejected by Northern Altai children.^[2]

Northern Altay is written in Cyrillic. In 2006, in the Altay kray, an alphabet was created for the Kumandy variety.^[3]

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Demographics

According to data from the 2002 Russian Census, 65,534 people in Russia stated that they have command of the Altay language.^[4] Only around 10% of them speak Northern Altay varieties, while the remaining speak Southern Altay varieties. Furthermore, according to some data, only 2% of Altays fluently speak the Altay language.^[5]

Varieties

Northern Altay consists of the following varieties:

- Kumandy dialect (also Qubandy/Quwandy). 1,862 Kumandins claim to know their national language,^[6] but 1,044 people were registered as knowing Kumandy.^[7]
- Chelkan dialect (also Kuu/Quu, Chalkandu/Shalkanduu, Lebedin). 466 Chelkans claim to speak their national language, and 539 people in all claim to know Chalkan.

Tubalar language (also known as Tuba language), is also often ascribed to belong to the Northern Altai group, but its relation to other languages is dubious and it may belong to Kipchak languages.^[8] 408 Tubalars claim to know their national language, and 436 people in all reported knowing Tuba.

Closely related to the northern varieties of Altay are Kondom Shor dialect and the Lower Chulym dialect of Chulym language.^[8]

Northern Altai	
түндүк алтай тили	
Native to	Russia
Region	Altai Republic Altai Krai
Native speakers	<5,000
Language family	Turkic <ul style="list-style-type: none">Siberian Turkic<ul style="list-style-type: none">Altai<ul style="list-style-type: none">Northern Altai
Writing system	Cyrillic
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	atv
Glottolog	nort2686 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/nort2686) ^[1]

Linguistic features

The following features refer to the outcome of commonly used Turkic *isoglosses* in Northern Altai.^{[9][10][11]}

- **/ag/* — Proto-Turkic **/ag/* is found in three variations throughout Northern Altai: /u/, /aw/, /aʷ/
- **/eb/* — Proto-Turkic **/eb/* is found as either /yj/ or /yg/, depending on the variety
- **/VdV/* — With a few lexical exceptions (likely borrowings), proto-Turkic intervocalic **/d/* results in /j/.

See also

- Southern Altai language

References

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11. Baskakov, Nikolay Aleksandrovich (1985). *Диалект Лебединских Татар-Чалканцев (Куу-Киж)*. Москва: Наука.

External links

- Ethnologue entry for Northern Altai (http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=atv)

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